

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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3 1. A method for resisting electrical shorts caused by  
4 an animal contacting an electrified wire and a structure  
5 supporting the wire, comprising the steps of:

6 assembling a sprayable dielectric material and a  
7 material sprayer;

8 spraying said dielectric material on the structure at a  
9 location proximate to the electrified wire; and

10 continuing to spray dielectric material on the  
11 structure until a selected dielectric material thickness is  
12 achieved.

13 2. A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising  
14 the step of selecting a dielectric material having sprayable  
15 properties.  
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18 3. A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising  
19 the step of evaluating the difference in electric potential  
20 between the electrified wire and the structure before said  
21 dielectric material is sprayed on the structure.

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23 4. A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising  
24 the step of selecting the thickness of a dielectric material  
25 to provide a desired dielectric insulating capability.

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5. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said dielectric material is sprayed on the structure before the structure is installed to support the electrified wire.

6. A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of spraying said dielectric material on the electrified wire at a location proximate to the structure.

7. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said dielectric material is sprayed on the wire before the wire is supported by the structure and before the wire is electrified.

8. A method for resisting electrical shorts caused by an animal contacting an electrified wire and a structure supporting the wire, comprising the steps of:

assembling a liquified dielectric material and a device for distributing said liquefied dielectric material;  
distributing said dielectric material on the structure at a location proximate to the electrified wire; and  
continuing to distribute said dielectric material on the structure until a selected dielectric material thickness is achieved.

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9. A method as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the step of selecting the thickness of a dielectric material to provide a desired dielectric insulating capability.

10. A method as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the step of evaluating the potential differential between the electrified wire and the structure.

11. A method as recited in Claim 8, wherein said dielectric material is distributed on the structure before the structure is installed to support the electrified wire.

12. A method as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the step of distributed said dielectric material on the electrified wire at a location proximate to the structure.

13. A method as recited in Claim 12, wherein said dielectric material is distributed on the wire before the wire is supported by the structure and before the wire is electrified.

1 14. A method as recited in Claim 8, wherein said  
2 dielectric material is distributed on the structure without  
3 de-energizing the wire.  
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sub A<sub>2</sub> > 15. A method for resisting electrical shorts caused by  
an animal contacting an electrified wire and another object,  
comprising the steps of:  
assembling a liquified dielectric material and a device  
for distributing said liquefied dielectric material;  
distributing said dielectric material on a selection  
portion of the wire; and  
continuing to distribute said dielectric material on  
the wire until a selected dielectric material thickness is  
achieved.

16 16. An apparatus for supporting an electrified wire  
17 while resisting electrical shorts caused by an animal in  
18 contact with the electrified wire, comprising:  
19 a support for supporting the electrified wire;  
20 dielectric material distributed on the structure at a  
21 location proximate to the electrified wire, wherein said  
22 dielectric material has sufficient dielectric strength to  
23 resist electrical short circuits is contact with said  
24 dielectric material and the electrified wire.

1           17. An apparatus as recited in Claim 16, further  
2   comprising dielectric material engaged with the electrified  
3   wire at a location proximate to said support.

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5           18. An apparatus as recited in Claim 16, wherein said  
6   dielectric material is sprayable.

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8           19. An apparatus as recited in Claim 16, wherein said  
9   dielectric material is resistant to sunlight induced  
10   deterioration.

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12           20. An apparatus as recited in Claim 16, wherein said  
13   dielectric material is resistant to deterioration induced by  
14   thermal variations.

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